

Cur
Cur S. 25
1954

In effect until
Sept. 1957

Curriculum S. 25
10000—March, 1954—1338
53-H506

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373.1909713
059DE/C-E13



Department of Education

Courses of Study

Grade XIII

ENGLISH

This Course of Study, introduced in September, 1954, replaces that formerly contained in Circular H.S. 25, last printed in 1951

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF
THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

COURSE OF STUDY

ENGLISH

Grade XIII

ENGLISH COMPOSITION

Work in Grade XIII Composition should enable pupils to make intelligent observations within a wide range of experience, to organize their ideas logically, and to communicate the results of their thinking to others with clarity, purpose, and effectiveness. To help the pupils develop these qualities more emphasis should be placed on speaking and writing with a purpose than on text-book exercises in the mechanics of composition. In order to reach a minimum standard of proficiency in essay writing and oral expression, the pupil must have something to say, show power to organize his ideas, and be able to use English clearly, correctly, and agreeably. If these qualities are to be acquired, a command of correct usage and continuous practice in oral and written work are essential.

The Grade XIII course should include a more mature treatment of the courses for Grades XI and XII (Curriculum S.4), and also the following:

(i) *Essay:*

Further practice should be given in the planning and writing of essays and in addition at least two longer essays or stories of one thousand to fifteen hundred words should be prepared in order to provide experience in the organization of a considerable body of thought. It should be remembered that the word "essay" as here used is not intended to restrict the pupils to expository writing only.

(ii) *Précis:*

In writing a précis the pupil must express the essential meaning of a given passage in about one-quarter or one-third the length of the original. The pupil's version should be logically developed and expressed mainly in his own words.

(iii) *Appreciation:*

In writing an appreciation of a suitable prose passage the pupil

should show comprehension of the content, understanding of the author's purpose, and recognition of the means by which he has produced his effects.

(iv) **Reports:**

In writing a report the pupil should show ability to gather information, to record observations for a specific purpose, and to communicate the salient ideas concisely and clearly to others.

(v) **Sentence Structure:**

Regular attention should be given to the use of words and the clausal analysis of sentences in order to give the pupil an understanding of the connection between clear thought and correct form.

Attention also should be given to the form and significance of phrases as word-units that emphasize ideas or impressions in sentences.

(vi) **Form:**

In oral work thoughtful, well-constructed statements audible to all members of the class should be insisted on and, in written work, neatness and legibility.

(vii) **Correlation:**

Many opportunities will be found for using material drawn from the prescribed course in literature to illustrate those principles of writing that are taught in the courses in English Composition and to stimulate the pupils to better writing.

The Departmental examination in English Composition will test the candidate's ability

- (a) to write a short essay on one of a list of topics;
- (b) to write a précis or a report,

OR

- to write an appreciation of the merits of a given passage of good prose;
- (c) to do one or more of the following:
 - (i) give the clausal analysis of sentences, explain the use of words and phrases in achieving specific effects in sentences, and expand simple statements into complex sentences;

- (ii) correct sentences that are faulty in grammar or syntax and give the reasons for these corrections;
 - (iii) explain the meaning of words and use them correctly in sentences;
 - (iv) supply the correct capitalization, punctuation, spacing and set-up in a given passage.
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ENGLISH LITERATURE

The study of English Literature in Grade XIII should enable the pupils to gain a broader and deeper understanding of life by comprehending the ideas and intentions of the authors whose works have been prescribed, and by apprehending, as far as possible, their imaginative experience. To the degree that their maturity permits, the pupils should acquire appreciative insight into the thoughts and feelings of writers and an understanding of the art by which the total impression is conveyed to the reader. Literary forms and techniques should be examined in order to discover their contribution to this total impression. Through the study of literature the pupils should develop discrimination and good taste in their reading, and the ability to enjoy an enlarged experience. In achieving this purpose the pupils should acquire a genuine personal experience of literature through comprehension of the meaning, significance and mode of expression found in the works studied in the classroom.

Audible, clear and acceptable oral answers, and regular practice in oral reading are part of the pupil's training in English.

Supplementary Reading

The reading of books other than those prescribed for examination purposes is an essential part of the course of study. This additional reading might well include competent reporting and criticism of subjects that reflect the interests of contemporary life.

Memorization

Although memorization of suitable passages is not included for examination purposes, pupils should be required to memorize a reasonable number of suitable passages of their own or the teacher's selection.

The Departmental examination in English Literature will be based upon the prescription in Circular S.58, issued annually.